

Applicant : Bennett et al.
Serial No. : 09/975,196
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Attorney's Docket No.: 05542-480001 / 5758/CMP

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13-24, 29 and 30-39 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 4-11 and 13-20 are allowed. Claims 21 and 29 are rejected under 37 CFR 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,747,282 ("Katze"). Claims 22 and 24 are rejected under 37 CFR 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,740,893 ("Yamamoto"). Claims 23 and 31 are withdrawn (but see MPEP 809.02(c) regarding treatment of withdrawn claims when generic claim is allowed). Claims 32-41 are new. No new matter has been added.

Claim 21 is rejected as being anticipated by Katze. The Examiner rejected claim 21, asserting that Katze discloses a retainer, at least a portion including polytetrafluoroethylene. Claim 21 has been amended to remove polytetrafluoroethylene from the group. Katze does not disclose a retainer including a bottom portion including perfluoroalkoxy, polyetherketoneketone, polybenzimidazole, a semi-crystalline thermoplastic polyester, or a long molecular chain molecule produced from poly-paraphenylene, and accordingly is not anticipated by Katze. Claim 21 is in condition for allowance.

Claim 29 is rejected as being anticipated by Katze. The Examiner rejected claim 29, asserting that Katze discloses a retainer, at least a portion including polytetrafluoroethylene. Claim 21 has been amended to remove polytetrafluoroethylene from the group. Katze does not disclose a retainer including a bottom portion including perfluoroalkoxy, polyetherketoneketone, polybenzimidazole, a semi-crystalline thermoplastic polyester, or a long molecular chain molecule produced from poly-paraphenylene, and accordingly is not anticipated by Katze. Claim 29 is in condition for allowance.

Claims depending from 21 and 29 are similarly allowable.

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Respectfully submitted,

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